

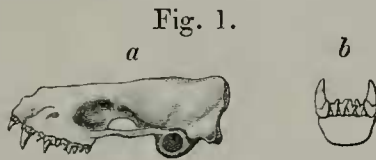
2. On some Species of Chiroptera from Australia.  
By W. LECHE, University of Stockholm.

[Received December 17, 1883.]

Through Mr. G. Schneider, of Basel, I have received a collection of Australian Bats in alcohol, on some of which I beg leave to offer a few remarks.

1. *NYCTINOMUS PETERSI*, sp. nov.

Of hitherto described species this stands nearest to *N. norfolcensis*, Gray. It differs from it slightly, however, through the following characteristics:—(1) Gular sac entirely wanting in both the male and female, while it exists in *N. norfolcensis*. (2) Nostrils opening forward; in *N. norfolcensis* sublaterally. (3) The wing-membrane is attached to the tibia a short distance from the ankle; in *N. norfolcensis* it issues from the ankle. (4) The innerside of the first lower premolar is not covered by the cingulum of the second pre-



*Nyctinomus petersi*, ♀.

*a*, skull, twice the natural size; *b*, lower dentition in front, natural size.

molar as in *N. norfolcensis*. (5) It has only four deeply bifid incisors in the lower jaw, while *N. norfolcensis* is said to have in addition a third outer pair of very small lower incisors; but perhaps this difference is only individual, or dependent upon age.

The tragus, antitragus, the relative length of the metacarpal bones, and other important characteristics agree completely with those of *Nyct. norfolcensis*.

The cranium is distinguishable, in comparison with that of *Nyct. brasiliensis*, by its sharply depressed flattened form as well as by

Fig. 2.



Skull of *N. brasiliensis*, ♂, twice the natural size.

the fact that the upper profile-contour is entirely straight. The *crista occipitalis* forms the highest point of the cranium; in *Nyct. brasiliensis* the crown of the head rises higher. The ventral edge of the upper jaw is almost straight, while in *Nyct. brasiliensis* it is strongly turned upward in front.

The first lower premolar is as high as the cingulum of the second.

Measurements (female).

	millim.
Length, head and body . . . . .	57
„ head . . . . .	21
„ tail . . . . .	33
„ tail, free from membrane	12
„ ear, outer margin . . . .	16
„ tragus . . . . .	3
„ forearm . . . . .	34
„ third finger, metacarpal	36
„ fifth finger, metacarpal	24
„ tibia . . . . .	10

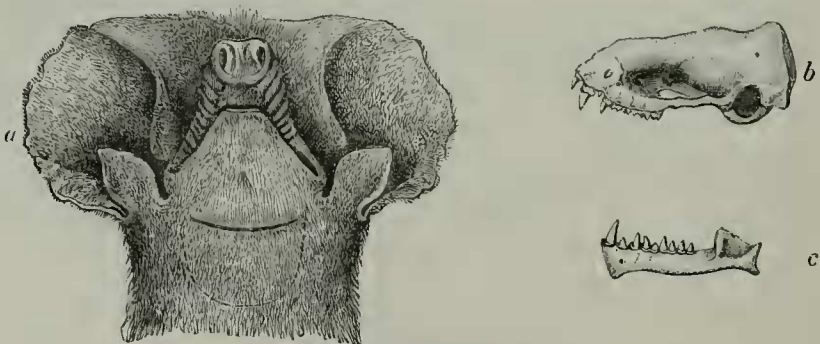
The male is considerably smaller.

*Hab.* South Australia.

2. *NYCTINOMUS ALBIDUS*, sp. nov.

This species is most nearly related to *Nyct. australis*, Gray, which has otherwise a rather isolated position in the genus. From the last-named form it deviates through the facts:—(1) that the ears are much longer than the head and united by a low band, whereas in *Nyct. australis* they are shorter than the head and separate; (2) the integument forming the ear-conch is thick and opaque, whereas in *Nyct. australis* it is rather thin; (3) in *Nyct. australis* a narrow band of hair extends outwards behind the forearm and covers the

Fig. 3.



*Nyctinomus albidus*; natural size.

space between it and the upper third of the fourth metacarpal; this covering of hair is lacking in *Nyct. albidus*; (4) concerning the adult male of *Nyct. australis*, Dobson (Catalogue of Chiroptera in British Museum, 1878, p. 433) states that “the fur covering the wing-membrane beneath, between the humerus and femur and the sides of the body outwards, is pure white, contrasting strongly with the dark-brown fur of the body,” and furthermore that it is provided

with a very large gular sac, much larger than in any other known species of the genus; while, on the other hand, in the female of the same species, "the fur covering the wing-membrane along the sides of body beneath does not differ in colour from the fur covering the sides of the abdomen," also in the same, "the margin of the mouth of the gular sac is alone developed." Mr. Dobson correctly calls attention to these secondary sexual characters as peculiarly noticeable, as such differences between the male and female of insectivorous Bats are very rare. Of especial interest now is the fact, that the *female* of *Nyct. albidus*, in the respect just alluded to, corresponds precisely with the male of *Nyct. australis*, as both the white colour of the underpart of the wing-membrane and a large, particularly well developed gular sac appear. Here, also, the very singular fact meets us, that characteristics which in one species are exclusively distinctive of the *one* sex, are found in a nearly related species in the other. Unfortunately I have not had an opportunity of examining any male of *Nyct. albidus*; it is highly probable, however, that, at least with regard to the characteristics mentioned, no secondary sexual characteristics appear in this species.

Upper incisors long, with the points of the teeth strongly converging towards each other; the very small first upper premolar not filling the middle space between the canine and second premolar. The four lower incisors plainly bifid; first lower premolar about as high as the first molar, and not much lower than the second premolar.

*Hab.* South Australia.

Measurements (female).

	millim.
Length, head and body . . . . .	85
„ head . . . . .	30
„ tail . . . . .	47
„ tail, free from membrane	28
„ ear, outer margin . . . .	26
„ tragus . . . . .	5
„ forearm . . . . .	60
„ third finger, metacarpal	58
„ fifth finger, metacarpal	32
„ tibia . . . . .	30

3. NYCTINOMUS PLICATUS.

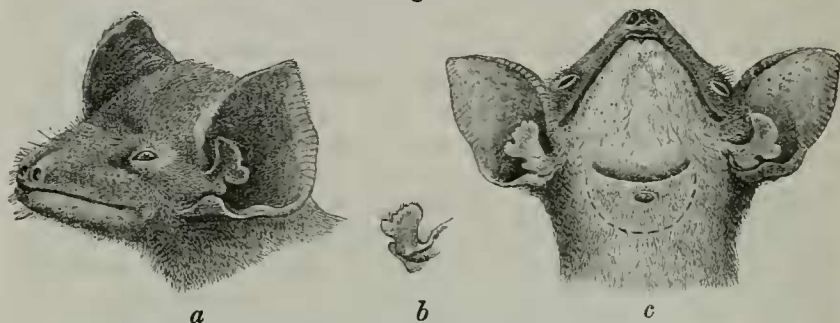
Several specimens completely corresponding with Dobson's description of this species (Catal. of Chiropt. p. 425), which has hitherto, according to Dobson, only been found in the peninsula of India, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Malay peninsula, and the Philippine Islands, are in the collection, obtained from South Australia and Northern Tasmania.

4. TAPHOZOUS AFFINIS, Dobson, var. INSIGNIS, mihi.

Up to this time only one Australian species belonging to this genus

is known, viz. *T. australis*, Gould. Among the Australian Bats of the present collection there is, however, one specimen which does not show any near kinship with the above-mentioned species, while in all essential characteristics it so closely corresponds with Dobson's *Taph. affinis*, that it can only be taken as a geographical variety, which presents the differences indicated below. (1) The upper edge of the tragus is jagged, not quite circular, as in *Taph. affinis*, yet the ears are not entirely alike on both sides (compare figs. 4 *a*, *b*). (2) Behind the aperture of the well-developed gular sac, which is about 5 millim. deep, issues another small duplicature of integument,

Fig. 4.



*Taphozous affinis*, var. *insignis*.

*a*, Side view of head; *b*, right tragus; *c*, under view of head.

the aperture of which is provided with thickened edges. (3) The portion of the wing-membrane between the forearm and the third finger is white.

In other characteristics (ears, colour, distribution of fur, &c.) this specimen (which is a male) corresponds with *Taph. affinis*.

Measurements (male).

	millim.
Length, head and body . . . . .	74
„ head . . . . .	30
„ tail . . . . .	23
„ tail, free from membrane . . . . .	9
„ ear, outer margin . . . . .	25
„ tragus . . . . .	7
„ forearm . . . . .	70
„ third finger, metacarpal . . . . .	68
„ fifth finger, metacarpal . . . . .	41
„ tibia . . . . .	26

*Hab.* South Australia.

As *Taph. saccolæmus*, Temminck, only differs from Dobson's *Taph. affinis* through the colour of the ventral side and through the presence of a gular sac in the female, and as, again, *Taph. affinis*, var. *insignis*, likewise only differs in subordinate characteristics from

*Taph. affinis*, Dobs., thus these three forms could be regarded as direct descendants of the same type, which through geographical separation have perhaps gained a certain permanence. The geographical range of the three above-named forms seems only partly coincident. *Taph. affinis*, var. *insignis*, is the most easterly, *Taph. saccolæmus* the most westerly, and between them comes the *Taph. affinis*, having been up to this time only found in Labuan and Sumatra.

##### 5. MINIOPTERUS SCHREIBERSI, Natt., var. BLEPOTIS.

The three specimens examined by me correspond most closely with the description given by Tomes (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, pp. 121-123) of his *M. blepotis*.

Through the below-stated characteristics the animal in question differs slightly from the other forms of *Miniopterus*. (1) Interfemoral membrane nearly naked, only at its base on the dorsal side thinly covered with hairs. (2) The nose longer than in European specimens of *M. schreibersi*. (3) Above the base of the outer margin of tragus is a little round, triangular projection. (4) Length of the first upper premolar constitutes half in the form now described, in the European *M. schreibersi* less than half of the length of the second premolar.

##### Measurements (female).

	millim.
Length, head and body . . . . .	74
„ head . . . . .	17
„ tail . . . . .	54
„ forearm . . . . .	45
„ tibia . . . . .	19

From the above it is evident that the specimens in question differ from the European *M. schreibersi*, partly through the smaller size, partly through the characteristics above cited (2, 3, 4). Through the peculiarities mentioned under 3, they, on the other hand, approach *N. tristis*. The only difference between *M. australis* and the specimens indicated is described under 1; according to Dobson (*l. c.* p. 348), in *M. australis* half the interfemoral membrane is clothed.

From the above it ought thus with certainty to be deduced, that *M. schreibersi* and *M. australis* are united through intermediate forms, which (provided one can judge from Tomes's description, without having seen his original specimens) most nearly correspond with *M. blepotis*, Tomes. But as Dobson has joined the latter with *M. schreibersi*, so consequently *M. australis* ought not to be separated from *M. schreibersi*, but to be regarded as a form of this species remarkable for its extended geographical diffusion and its consequent polymorphism.

As has already been shown, an approach is indicated, through the appearance of a rudimentary lobulus of tragus, between the specimens

in question and *M. tristis*, of which the main characteristics consist in the presence of a well-developed lobulus. Without having seen a specimen of the last-named form, I venture nevertheless to express an opinion as to its validity as a species.

*Hab.* South Australia.

### 3. Description of a new Species of *Laniarius* from Ashantee.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department of Zoology, British Museum.

[Received January 30, 1884.]

(Plate V.)

Mr. Godfrey Lagden, who has recently returned from Ashantee, has presented some specimens of birds to the British Museum, amongst which is an example of the present species, a typical *Laniarius*, of the same group as *L. poliocephalus* and *L. hypopyrrhus*, &c., but differing from all in the absence of white lores, the whole of the side-face being dark slaty grey like the crown. I propose for it the name of *L. lagdeni*, after its discoverer.

LANIARIUS LAGDENI, sp. n. (Plate V.)

*Similis* *L. poliocephalo sed loris et facie laterali saturate schistaceis pileo concoloribus distinguendus.*

*Adult.* General colour above dark olive-greenish, the upper tail-coverts rather yellower and edged with bright yellow at their ends; scapulars like the back; wing-coverts black, broadly margined with bright yellow; bastard-wing and primary-coverts entirely black; quills black, externally olive-greenish, the inner secondaries broadly tipped with yellow, before which is a conspicuous subterminal shade of black; tail-feathers olive-greenish with black shafts, and tipped with yellow, more broadly on the outer feathers: head, hind neck, and upper mantle dark slaty grey, as well as the sides of the neck; lores, sides of face, cheeks, and ear-coverts a shade darker slaty grey than the crown; throat and fore neck brilliant orange, the rest of the under surface bright yellow, the orange colour gradually shading off on to the breast from the throat; under wing-coverts and axillaries bright yellow, as also the edge of the wing; quills dusky below, yellow along the inner web. Total length 10·5 inches, culmen 1·2, wing 4·55, tail 4·4, tarsus 1·35.

*Hab.* Ashantee, West Africa (*Godfrey Lagden*). Type in Brit. Mus.